

## SENATE PASSED ROAD MEASURE

The Lassiter-Withers Bill Goes Through By Quite a Large Majority.

## HOUSE HAS A LONG DEBATE

Method of Selecting Commissioners of the Revenue Causes Much Discussion.

Both Houses of the General Assembly held long sessions yesterday, and gave consideration to important matters.

The Senate passed the Lassiter-Withers bill after much discussion, and the bill offered by Mr. Old, of Norfolk, in the House in relation to cemeteries was also adopted, with an amendment providing that parties injured in their property rights by the proximity of cemeteries may have two years in which to bring action for damages.

The House spent its entire session in discussing the bill offered by Mr. Early, authorizing and empowering the courts to appoint Commissioners of the Revenue, but no final action was taken. The bill comes up again to-day as a special and continuing order, and indications are that it will pass.

Many speeches were made on both sides, and the argument will be closed in favor of the bill to-day by the patron. One of the most forceful contentions in favor of the passage of the measure was by Judge Boyton Green, of Charlotte, who pointed out that to turn out all the present commissioners and put new men in their places meant the upsetting of the entire revenues of the State. A large number of amendments were offered, but they were all rejected.

In both Houses a large number of bills were offered and referred.

### THE SENATE.

Lassiter Bill, Creating Highway Commission, Passes.

After a striking debate the Senate yesterday passed the Lassiter bill creating a State Highway Commission. The bill was designed to afford much-needed relief to Norfolk and was amended, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of its patron. A number of other important matters were considered during the three hours or more the Senate sat.

The session began at 11:30 o'clock with President Elyson in the chair, and a full attendance of senators. Visitors were fewer than usual, though a number of the gallery seats were taken. Committee reports were brief, but interesting. As forecast yesterday morning the Committee on Public Institutions and Education reported with the recommendation that it do not pass the House resolution looking to the abolition of the position of school inspector and examiner in Virginia. This was the most interesting item in the committee reports for the day. Under the call a number of new bills were presented and a veritable flood of petitions from many sections of the State asking for the adoption of the proposed changes in the Mann law, as set forth in the bill offered Tuesday by the Notoway member poured in. Senators lobbied up in every quarter of the room and the amusement momentarily increased as new petitions were placed upon the steadily increasing pile. A long petition from Portsmouth for the confirmation of the appointment of Joseph U. Sanders as superintendent of schools of that city was presented by Mr. Thomas, of Lynchburg.

Consideration of the calendar brought up a number of important measures. The bill abolishing the office of State chemist was passed. Both Richmond senators voted in the negative. This marks the end of a long fight that has extended through several sessions. The Lassiter bill creating a State Highway Commission came up on its passage.

Arising to state why he could not vote for the bill, which he was aware the

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### MAKERS OF VIRGINIA LAWS.



DELEGATE CHARLES T. BLAND.

Senate was determined to pass, Mr. Kezell, of Rockingham, opposed the principle of the bill, and it is clearly the beginning of an effort to saddle the expense of road improvement in Virginia upon the State. It demands that those counties, of which Rockingham is one, that are now going down into their own pockets to build their own roads, shall, in addition, be taxed for the benefit of those other counties that do absolutely nothing to help themselves. I am unalterably opposed to the plan, and while I have no hope that what I now say may influence any vote here, I would not feel that I was doing my duty to my constituency if I did not raise my voice in protest.

### Kezell's Opposition.

"This bill," declared the Rockingham senator, "is unnecessary and unwise, and merely creates useless high salaries of

fices. It uproots the system of road work in operation in the State for many years, and it is clearly the beginning of an effort to saddle the expense of road improvement in Virginia upon the State. It demands that those counties, of which Rockingham is one, that are now going down into their own pockets to build their own roads, shall, in addition, be taxed for the benefit of those other counties that do absolutely nothing to help themselves. I am unalterably opposed to the plan, and while I have no hope that what I now say may influence any vote here, I would not feel that I was doing my duty to my constituency if I did not raise my voice in protest.

Proceeding, Mr. Kezell sharply ridiculed the State aid plan providing expert supervision of road work, declaring that the people wanted no "double-ell-dee-dee" engineers, with an alphabet stalking behind their names, but sensible, level-headed, practical men, who could do thorough work. Both had been tried in his county, he said, and the work of the engineers had to be finished and perfected by the county surveyor. In conclusion Mr. Kezell flatly refused to support the bill.

"If this be treason," he declared, "make the most of it. I hear a great deal to the effect that the Democratic party stands pledged and committed to good roads on the State aid plan."

Who committed the party I want to know? I deny the right of Judge Mann or Mr. Willard or Mr. Swanson or anybody else to commit the Democratic party and I repeat that I will not support this bill and if that be treason, make the most of it.

### Many Advocates.

Advocates of the Lassiter bill appeared in every quarter of the room, and the debate quickly developed into one of the most notable of the session. Mr. Mendenhall, of Alexandria, made a strong argument for the bill, and Mr. Mendenhall, of Amherst, followed in a striking speech, finely delivered, arranging the system under which the counties were being drained of their funds and predicting a revolution if it did not stop. The Amherst senator introduced statistics to prove the efficacy of the State aid plan.

Judge Mann, of Notoway, admitted that as a candidate for Governor in the late campaign he had promised good roads, and he considered it his duty to tell the people what to expect of him if they placed him in power. In his opinion, when the people of Rockingham, including the senator from that county, voted for one of the three candidates, all three of whom committed themselves for good roads, these people in turn committed themselves to the public good, and the conditions advocated. There was a lot of good-natured bantering of the Rockingham senator, which he took calmly. He was for one thing arraigned as representing a county which had reaped the benefits of State aid in the past and which now was opposing State aid to other counties.

Insisting on his right as a senator to speak notwithstanding a call by Mr. Lassiter for the pending question, Major Lyon, of Loudoun and Fauquier, opposed the State aid plan, declaring that the one road in his county built under the State aid system was the worst road

there. The plan, he declared, would eventually bankrupt the State. Mr. Echols, of Staunton, also announced his opposition to the plan, saying that if the discussion kept up the end would be talked to death. Mr. Lassiter again called for the pending question and the call was sustained by a vote of 17 to 7. The bill was then passed by a vote of 21 to 5 as follows:

Ayes--Anderson, Campbell, Chapman, Dickinson, Fulton, Garrett, Greear, Harman, Hobbs, Kerns, Lassiter, Lincoln, Mendenhall, Mann, Noel, Patterson, Pilegator, Pilegator, Roberts, Sadler, Sale, Shackelford, Shinnis, Sims, Strode, Tavernier, Thomas, Turner, T. A. Wickham, Noes--Echols, Ginter, Holt, Kezell, Lyon.

### Special Order Called.

About 1:15 o'clock the special order was taken up precipitating a further discussion of the bill designed to provide additional cemetery room for the Norfolk. Mr. Sale again explained the conditions, opposing the amendment to the bill prepared by Judge Mann, allowing action for damages by persons whose property has been injured by the location nearby of a cemetery. For the protection of property-holders Judge Mann insisted upon this amendment. A substitute was offered by Mr. Lassiter providing for the appointment of a commission to appraise damages as in condemnation proceedings.

Mr. Sale continued to oppose any amendments, declaring that they would kill the bill. Replying, Judge Mann declared that the matters resolved itself into a question of whether or not the city of Norfolk was willing to allow damages for the damage it would do.

Attention was called by Mr. Sale to the fact that the courts have recently held that the establishment of a cemetery was a public necessity, causing damage without injury. To adopt the amendment proposed would change the entire policy of the law with reference to cemeteries, against which no action for damage was now allowed. Mr. Lassiter admitted that this was the precise purpose he had in view--to make a sweeping change in the law that would permit the recovery of damages from cemeteries which injured property values. Mr. Sale declared against the amendment. A cemetery, he said, was the last resting-place of the sacred dead, and not the place to be abhorred and dreaded. For the particular benefit of Judge Mann, Mr. Sale read Longfellow's poem, "God's Acre," to the Senate.

"Why does the Senator from Petersburg, who has been in the General Assembly many years," queried Mr. Sale, "wait until this moment to propose a sweeping amendment to the cemetery law that will block an emergency act of the very gravest importance? Any amendment you offer will delay this bill long enough to kill it. While I, of course, acquit the Senator from Notoway and the Senator from Petersburg from any such motives, I want to say that a movement is being made to prevent the city of Norfolk from taking advantage of this option, which will expire in a few days."

### Mann Amendment.

By a large majority the Senate rejected the Lassiter substitute, and then, by a vote of 17 to 7, adopted the Mann amendment. The bill as amended was then passed. In view of the importance of the Mann amendment, which makes cemeteries actionable for damages, it is given here in full:

But when damage is done to adjacent land by the establishment of such cemetery whether established by purchase of land or condemnation proceedings, the owners, whose lands have been damaged shall have right of action against any person, firm, corporation, or municipality establishing said cemetery, such action to be instituted within one year from the establishment of such cemetery."

### Won His Point.

Squabbles came thick and fast during the day. Under a suspension of the rules a local bill was taken up and passed out of its order. Captain Patterson of Rockingham, at once arose and asked that a similar consideration, heretofore denied to him, be now shown.

Some member expressed the hope that the Senate "would not deviate from the calendar." With some exasperation Captain Patterson retorted that the Senate, though it denied this privilege to him, had extended it to others. A parliamentary tangle ensued and several votes were taken, the result of which was that the Rockingham senator won his point.

A resolution offered by Mr. Machen providing for daily sessions of the Senate at 4 P. M. for the advancement of bills on their first reading was met with an objection from Mr. Chapman, of Greene, who declared that the proposition was dangerous. It is an open legislative secret that nobody pays attention to the bills when first read because they cannot at that stage be either discussed or amended. By a process of senatorial short-cuts the reading of hundreds of printed pages of bills is not infrequently accomplished in a few minutes. Two or three senators, perhaps, remain in the room, but the others leave.

In the opinion of Mr. Chapman, however, when the Senate was declared to be in session for the first reading of bills, as required by law, it could, in addition, transact any other business it so desired. A few members might thus take the others unaware when they were absent.

Mr. Wickham, of Hanover, agreed that this might be accomplished, but declared that the Senate would be better off not to engage in any business other than the reading of bills. It was pointed out that there were not sufficient bills on their first reading to call for daily sessions, and provision was simply made

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It absorbs the injurious gases which collect in the stomach and bowels; it disinfects the mouth and throat from the poison of catarrh.

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A Buffalo physician, in speaking of the benefits of charcoal, says: "I advise Stuart's Charcoal Lozenges to all patients suffering from gas, stomach and bowel troubles, and to clear the complexion and purify the breath, mouth and throat; I also believe that they are a great benefit to the body as a whole; they cost but twenty-five cents a box at drug stores, and although in some sense a patent preparation, they are better than any other charcoal in Stuart's Charcoal Lozenges than in any of the ordinary charcoal tablets."

for such sessions when they are necessary. One was held yesterday at 4:15 P. M. Twenty-six bills were introduced.

The morning session of the Senate ended about 2:45 o'clock.

### Bills Passed.

To amend section 118 of the Code of Virginia relating to cypress inspectors.

To amend section 118 of the Code of Virginia relating to the office of the State Highway Commission.

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When your Arm-Muscles grow flabby they need Exercise, to strengthen them--not a sling to support them.

When your Bowel-Muscles grow flabby they need Exercise to strengthen them--not "Physic" to pamper them.  
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One Cascaret at a time will promptly cleanse a foul Breath, or Coated Tongue, thus proving clearly its ready, steady, sure, but mild and effective action.

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THAT'S the time to take a Cascaret.

When your tongue is coated,

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When your Stomach Grows or Burns,

That's the time to check coming Constipation, Indigestion and Dyspepsia.

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Cascarets don't Purge, nor Weaken, nor waste Digestive Juices in flooding out the Bowels, like Salts, Castor Oil, "Physics."

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